

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-28, 30-55 and 57-81 have been canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. Claims 2, 29 and 56 have been amended and are pending in the application. For reasons set forth herein below, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections and the objections associated with the pending claims be withdrawn.

On page 10 of the Office Action, the Office Action objected to claims 2, 29 and 56 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As suggested by the Examiner, Applicant has herein amended claims 2, 29 and 56 to be rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objections associated with claims 2, 29 and 56 be withdrawn.

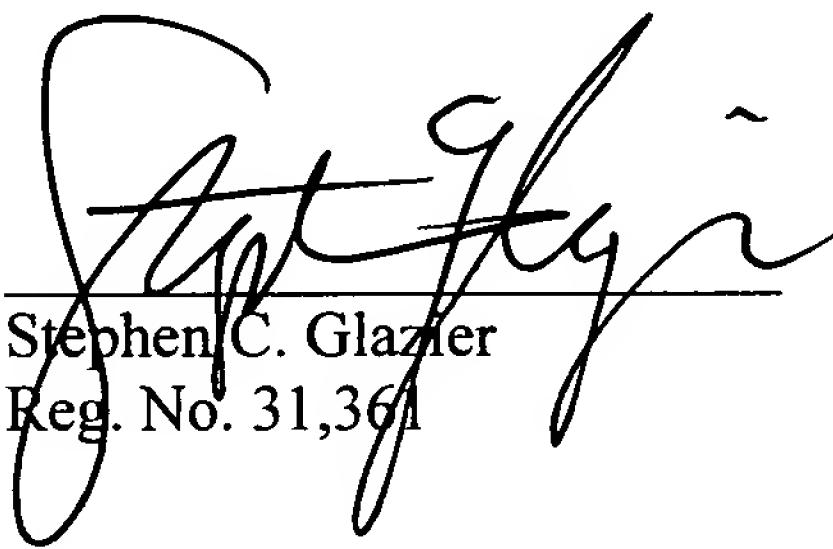
CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance. Should the Examiner believe that this application is in condition for disposition other than allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below in order to address the Examiner's concerns.

Applicant submits that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance. A check for payment of the fee set forth in § 1.17(e) is enclosed along with this submission as required under § 1.114. Please apply any other necessary charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 50-1721.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 15 Apr 04


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